The FCC ruling that takes effect January 2005 is nothing short of ridiculous. It effectively makes a widely accepted and efficient form of communication essentially unusable. It is absurd to write and mail a consent form to a company before they can legally fax information to the party initiating the request. It delays the receipt of the information at minimum of two days.

The ruling might also set a precedent for e-mails and require an e-mail recipient to furnish written consent prior to receiving an e-mail.

Most companies are very responsible about sending unsolicited faxes and do ask verbal permission. Even those that do not, will remove you from their list when requested.

If The FCC changes rulings about faxes, the changes should just penalize those companies that obviously abuse the system.